

## Frequently Asked Questions about EMS in Alaska

### *What are the requirements for Paramedic licensing in Alaska for out of state applicants?*

Paramedic licensure in Alaska is covered by 12 AAC 40.300-40.390. They are excerpted below:

12 AAC 40.310. QUALIFICATIONS FOR INITIAL LICENSE (a) An applicant for a mobile intensive care paramedic license must

- (1) be 19 years of age or older;
- (2) be a high school graduate;
- (3) provide a letter from the applicant's physician sponsor verifying that the applicant will, at all times, be under the supervision of a physician sponsor approved by the board, as required by 12 AAC 40.315;
- (4) submit a certified copy of the applicant's paramedic education program certificate or an original letter, signed by the education program director and sent directly to the division from the program director, verifying completion of a training program that meets the requirements of 12 AAC 40.320;
- (5) following the successful completion of the classroom and clinical portions of the board-approved curriculum, have satisfactorily completed a 480-hour internship that meets the requirements of 12 AAC 40.325;
- (6) pass the written and practical examination for emergency medical technician-paramedic administered by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians;
- (7) submit verification of licensure from the appropriate licensing authority in each state, territory, or province where the applicant holds or has ever held a license as a paramedic or other health care professional; and
- (8) submit the applicable fees established in 12 AAC 02.250.

(b) An applicant for licensure as a mobile intensive care paramedic who is currently licensed in another state must fulfill the requirements of (a)(1) - (4) and (6) - (8) of this section and

- (1) may not be currently under suspension or revocation as a mobile intensive care paramedic or emergency medical technician-paramedic, or the equivalent, and may not be the subject of an unresolved investigation, complaint review procedure, or disciplinary proceeding undertaken by a certifying or licensing agency in another state; and

(2) must submit written verification from the applicant's previous physician sponsor, on a form approved by the department, attesting that the applicant is capable of performing the activities listed in 12 AAC 40.370(a) plus any other specific emergency procedures authorized by the physician sponsor.

(c) The board will, in its discretion, require an applicant to provide additional documentation necessary to verify the applicant's education or experience. (Eff. 1/13/80, Register 73; am 5/11/85, Register 94; am 8/20/87, Register 103; am 4/10/88, Register 106; am 8/24/90, Register 115; am 6/15/2001, Register 158)

***Which agency is responsible for licensing Paramedics in Alaska; how can that agency be reached?***

The Alaska State Medical Board is the governing body for Paramedic licensure in Alaska. They can be reached at:

Medical Board Licensing Examiner  
Department of Commerce and Economic Development  
Division of Occupational Licensing  
P.O. Box 110806  
Juneau, AK 99811-0806

Executive Secretary: Leslie Abel (561-2878)  
Licensing Examiner: Joanie Studie (465-2541)  
Web site: <http://www.dced.state.ak.us/occ/pmed.htm>

***What are the requirements for EMT certification in Alaska for out of state applicants?***

Comity for EMT certification in Alaska is covered by 7 AAC 26.150. This regulation is listed below:

7 AAC 26.150. COMITY. (a) The department will issue a certificate to a person who has a valid certification as an EMT-I, EMT-II, or EMT-III, or the equivalent in another state or territory or has a valid certification from the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians, if the person provides the department with the following:

- (1) a copy of the valid state, territory, or National Registry certification;
- (2) evidence of a valid CPR certification;
- (3) other proof of qualifications that the department, in its discretion, requires;

(4) evidence of successful completion of the written and practical examination, administered by the department, at the level for which the person is applying, unless the person is applying for certification as an EMT-I and at the time of application is registered as an EMT-Basic by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians; and

(5) for applicants for EMT-II or EMT-III certification, or for EMT-I applicants who intend to practice approved airway management techniques or assist patients in administering the patient's prescribed sublingual nitroglycerine, bronchodilator inhaler, and epinephrine 1:1,000 by autoinjector, evidence of the sponsorship of a medical director, approved by the department, who accepts the responsibilities set out in 7 AAC 26.640.

(b) The department will, in its discretion, issue a certificate, valid for not more than 90 days, to a person applying for EMT-I certification who has fulfilled the requirements of (a)(1), (a)(2), (a)(3), and (a)(5) of this section.

(c) [covers EMT Instructor certification]

(d) A person who is certified or licensed in another state or territory as an EMT-I, or equivalent, but whose training does not include the objectives contained in the United States Department of Transportation, National Standard Curriculum for the Emergency Medical Technician: Basic, 1994, will be issued an EMT-I certificate valid until December 31 of the year of application, but the person must take a department-approved refresher training program and must apply for recertification as an EMT-I in order to practice as an EMT-I after that date.

(e) When providing mutual aid, and when treating and transporting a patient to or within this state, a person who is licensed or certified in another state, territory, or nation, as an EMT, mobile intensive care paramedic, or some other designation as an emergency medical responder, may provide care consistent with the scope of practice in the state, territory, or nation of origin, so long as medical direction is provided by a physician for advanced life support procedures, and the care is not precluded by the laws of the state, territory, or nation of origin.

(f) The department will, in its discretion, issue an EMT-I, EMT-II, or EMT-III certificate to a person living in another state, territory, or nation, if the person will provide care in this state under a mutual aid agreement with an emergency medical service certified under AS 18.08 and this chapter. The applicant must meet the requirements of 7 AAC 26.030, except that a person providing advanced life support may be under the sponsorship of a physician licensed in the other state, territory, or nation who agrees to fulfill the requirements outlined in 7 AAC 26.640.

(g) An applicant under this section may not have a history that includes one or more of the grounds for denial of certification set out

(1) in 7 AAC 26.950(a); or

(2) in 7 AAC 26.950(b) unless the department's consideration of one or more of the factors in 7 AAC 26.950(f)(1) - (5) results in a finding that issuance of the certificate is appropriate. (Eff. 12/31/81, Register 80; am 10/14/84, Register 92; am 10/23/92, Register 124; am 5/29/93, Register 126; am 5/22/96, Register 138; am 6/23/2001, Register 158)

***Which agency is responsible for certifying EMTs in Alaska; how can that agency be reached?***

Comity for EMT Certification is considered by the State of Alaska Community Health and Emergency Medical Services Office (CHEMS).

Community Health and Emergency Medical Services Section  
Division of Public Health  
Alaska Department of health and Social Services  
PO Box 110616  
Juneau, AK 99811-0616

Certification Coordinator: Melanie White (465-3027) [melanie\\_white@health.state.ak.us](mailto:melanie_white@health.state.ak.us)  
Web Site: [www.chems.alaska.gov](http://www.chems.alaska.gov)

***“Where do I get more information about training opportunities within Alaska?”***

Region	Address	Telephone (907)	Fax
<b>Interior Region</b>	Interior Region EMS Council, Inc. 3522 Industrial Drive Fairbanks, AK 99701	456-3978	456-3970
<b>Southern Region</b>	Southern Region EMS Council, Inc. 6130 Tuttle Place Anchorage, AK 99507	562-6449	562-9893
<b>Southeast Region</b>	Southeast Region EMS Council, Inc. P.O. Box 259 Sitka, AK 99835	747-8005	747-1406
<b>Northwest Arctic</b>	Maniilaq Association EMS Program P.O. Box 259 Kotzebue, AK 99752	442-7695	442-7678
<b>Norton Sound</b>	Norton Sound Health Corporation EMS Program P.O. Box 966 Nome, AK 99762	443-3306	443-3731
<b>North Slope</b>	Barrow Vol. Fire Department P.O. Box 69 Barrow, AK 99723	852-0234	852-0388
<b>Yukon-Kuskokwim</b>	Yukon/Kuskokwim Health Corporation EMS Program P.O. Box 528 Bethel, AK 99559	543-6078	543-6079

### ***What is the job market like in Alaska***

There are a wide variety of EMS employers within the state. Some fire departments, ambulance services, and medevac services utilize EMTs and or Paramedics. There are jobs in very remote communities as well as in Anchorage, the largest municipality in the state. Many communities use a combination of paid and volunteer responders.

### ***What are the entry level wages?***

Wages vary widely depending on location within the state.

Firefighter/EMTs	\$36,000-42,000/yr
Firefighter/Paramedics	\$37,080-46,000/yr
Non-fire Paramedics	\$26,000-38,000/yr

Some agencies have significant pay raises after probationary period is completed.

### ***Where can I find out about job opportunities?***

When the State EMS Office is contacted about a job opening, the opening is posted on the EMS list server and on the web site discussion board. You can subscribe to the list server or enter the discussion board on the CHEMS web site [www.chems.alaska.gov](http://www.chems.alaska.gov). Not all jobs are listed in these forums so those interested in employment can also contact potential employers directly.

### ***Which EMS agencies should I contact for applications?***

Anchorage Fire Department is the largest EMS provider in the state. Its web site is <http://www.ci.anchorage.ak.us/Services/Departments/Afd51/>. If interested, contact the Job Hotline at (907) 343-4451.

A list of EMS provider agencies is available for downloading from [www.chems.alaska.gov](http://www.chems.alaska.gov)

### ***Where can I get more information on relocation?***

The official State of Alaska web site has a section about relocating to Alaska. The link to the site is <http://www.dced.state.ak.us/tourism/relocating/relocation.htm>. Many local communities also have web sites that offers information about their communities.